

**South Dakota National Guard
Public Affairs Office
2823 West Main St.
Rapid City, S.D. 57702**

**Phone 605-737-6721
E-mail PAO@sd.ngb.army.mil**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

South Dakota National Guard unit will mobilize for deployment

RAPID CITY, S.D. (12/12/07) – Soldiers from Company C, 1st Battalion, 189th Aviation, South Dakota Army National Guard have received orders to deploy for 12-month tour in support of NATO's Kosovo Force (K-FOR).

The aviation unit is based in Rapid City at the Army Aviation Support Facility next to the Rapid City Regional Airport. The 21 Soldiers that will deploy are pilots, flight medics, crew chiefs and flight operations specialists. The Soldiers will travel to Camp Atterbury, Ind., in late March of 2008 to complete the mobilization process prior to deployment to Kosovo. The unit will train for about two months at Camp Atterbury, one month at the Hohenfels Combat Maneuver Training Center in Germany and spend about nine months in the Balkans.

The detachment will provide medical evacuation support to units throughout Kosovo by responding with the UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter and onboard medical specialists. The unit plans on deploying with three of its six UH-60s and will be attached to 1st Battalion, 106th Aviation, Illinois Army National Guard. Each aircraft is capable of evacuating up to four critically injured patients, and can also be used to transport troops and haul cargo.

This will be the unit's third deployment to the Balkans since 2002 and its fourth deployment overseas in same time frame. In 2002, the unit deployed to Bosnia in support of NATO's Stabilization Force and successfully completed a tour in Kosovo in 2003 in support of the K-FOR mission. This past spring, the unit provided humanitarian support with its medical evacuation capability in support of Operation New Horizons in Nicaragua.

Since Sept. 11, the South Dakota National Guard has mobilized more than 3,100 Soldiers and 700 Airmen in support of the Global War on Terror.

More than 140 Soldiers and Airmen from the South Dakota National Guard are currently serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. More than 4,000 National Guard men and women are still serving in a non-active duty status in South Dakota and continue to provide support for state and national emergencies and homeland defense.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, please contact Maj. Orson Ward at (605) 737-6721 cell (605) 431-8753.

Photo Cut Line: UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters from Company C, 1st Battalion, 189th Aviation, South Dakota Army National Guard in action during the unit's 2002 deployment in Bosnia-Herzegovina where the unit supported peacekeeping operations by providing medical evacuation capability to NATO forces.

Link to photo: https://sdguard.ngb.army.mil/released/SDARNG_UH-60_Blackhawks_in_Bosnia.jpg

EDITOR'S NOTE: Company C, 1st Battalion, 189th Aviation replaced the 1085th Medical Company (Air Ambulance) during the recent Transformation in the South Dakota Army National Guard. The unit's mission and force structure is the same. Only the name has changed.

Federal call-up for South Dakota National Guard units as of December 12, 2007

Operation Joint Endeavor (1996-1997)

129th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment Bosnia

S-FOR – K-FOR (2002-2008)

1085th Medical Company (Air Ambulance) Bosnia – Feb. 2002/Oct. 2002

1085th Medical Company (Air Ambulance) Kosovo – Sept. 2003/Oct. 2004

Company C, 1st Bn., 189th Aviation Kosovo – Will deploy in March 2008

Operation Noble Eagle

665th Maintenance Company

Ellsworth Air Force Base and Joe Foss Field – Jan 2003/
Jan 2005

Detachment 3, 665th Maintenance Co

Fort Sill, Okla. and National Training Center Feb. 2003/
Nov. 2003

Operation Enduring Freedom

155th Engineer Detachment

Kuwait - June 2002/March 2003

HHC, 109th Engineer Group

Afghanistan - April 2004/May 2005

147th Field Artillery Brigade

Afghanistan – June 2006/June 2007

129th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Afghanistan, Iraq, Qatar, Atlanta, Tampa – July 2006/
June 2007

235th Military Police Company

Afghanistan – Jan. 2007/currently deployed

Operation Iraqi Freedom

727 th Transportation Company	Kuwait-Iraq – Jan 2003/June 2004
109 th Engineer Battalion	Iraq – Jan. 2003/Aug. 2003
740 th Transportation Company	Kuwait-Iraq – Feb. 2003/Oct. 2004
1742 nd Transportation Company	Iraq – March 2003/Aug. 2004
Company B, 109 th Medical Battalion	Iraq – March 2003/June 2004
200 th Engineer Company	Iraq – Jan. 2003/June 2004
842 nd Engineer Company	Iraq – March 2003/Nov. 2004
235 th Military Police Company	Fort Carson, Colo. – Feb. 2003/Feb. 2004
129 th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment	Fort Riley, Kan. - March 2003/July 2003
1 st Battalion, 147 th Field Artillery	Fort Sill, Okla. - March 2003/May 2003
C Battery, 2/147 th Field Artillery	Fort Campbell, Ky. - March 2003/May 2003
114 th Civil Engineering Squadron	Iraq - March 2003/Sept. 2003
196 th Regional Training Institute	Fort Sill, Okla. and Fort Bragg, N.C. – Feb. 2003/Feb. 2004
2 nd Battalion, 147 th Field Artillery	Iraq – Dec. 2003/Feb. 2005
153 rd Engineer Battalion	Iraq – Dec. 2003/Feb. 2005
216 th Engineer Detachment (Firefighters)	Iraq – Nov. 2003/Jan. 2005
Det. 3, Company F, 238 th Aviation	Iraq – Nov. 2004/Oct. 2005
Det. 3, Company A, 249 th Aviation	Iraq – Dec. 2004/Jan. 2006
Battery C, 1/147 th Field Artillery	Iraq - July 2004/Sept. 2006
114 th Security Forces Squadron	Iraq – Feb. 2006/Sept. 2006
114 th Fighter Wing	Iraq – Oct. 2006/Jan. 2007
Det. 3, Company A, 249th Aviation	Iraq – Oct. 2007/currently deployed
Battery B, 1/147th Field Artillery	Iraq – Oct. 2007 reported to Camp Shelby, Miss. Will deploy to Iraq in Jan. 2008'
Det. 48, Operational Support Airlift	Afghanistan – Will deploy in Jan. 2008
S.D. Embedded Training Team	Afghanistan – Will deploy in Jan. 2008